

something out. It is too late in the session to do it. And I don't see where the end of the world occurs if we put things on hold for a year. The other thing is I think clearly we want to see a salary increase. It is the fair and right thing to do. I don't want to jeopardize that at all. But it seems to me that both 1250 and 1250A ought to be advanced at this time. Bracketing it will do nothing. If you want to stop the bill I'd just go right out and kill it instead of trying to bracket it because putting it off for a week will essentially do that. If you want to have a week to work on something, and maybe come back with some further modification, I'm sure Senator Warner and others will be interested in working on that. This won't come up for another week. So essentially by advancing it to Select File you have bought that amount of time to deal with the issue once again if you wish to. So there is nothing gained by this effort, other than delaying and essentially killing the bill. I'd rather see that done up front than taking this action. Again, my concern has been sitting on Business and Labor Committee. I'm sure Senator Barrett will talk about our experiences over there. But we definitely didn't like what the Governor proposed. That was something that we didn't like. But at the same time we didn't have a better idea, and maybe we won't find a better idea. Maybe we'll end up just saying let's go forward and let it happen as it happens. But certainly if we can structure it, make some sense of it at this time, this is the appropriate time to do it, before we get into it in any way that sets precedents and locks us into positions that are inflexible. So the time is now to deal with the issue, not later. We missed a chance last year, let's not miss it again this year. And I'd suggest advancing the bill.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator William Barrett, please, on the bracket motion.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I, too, rise in opposition to the motion to bracket LB 1250. The bill itself is nothing more than a 3 percent increase in salaries for state employees, plus a rather controversial collective bargaining issue. As amended by the Appropriations Committee, we simply now have a less restrictive bill than the original bill that was considered. The bill does give this body some flexibility, the bill as amended. We are going to have some time to develop a workable solution, hopefully. I know how hard